



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Planning & Development Committee
March 4, 2022**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports HB-5271, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF OUTDOOR FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES AND OUTDOOR DISPLAYS OF GOODS.**

Municipalities have been working hard to support restaurants, retail stores, and other local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. COST recognizes the need to provide these businesses with greater certainty regarding whether they can rely on the provisions under the current law which expire without legislative action.

COST also recognizes that assisting restaurants and other local businesses recover from financial losses stemming from the pandemic is crucial to state and local economic recovery efforts.

Accordingly, COST **supports HB-5271, as drafted**, which extends the application of certain temporary provisions concerning the permitting of outdoor food and beverage services and outdoor displays of goods until April 30, 2023, and delay the application of certain permanent provisions concerning the permitting of outdoor food and beverage services until May 1, 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB-5271.